

LAKE TAHOE

The March Century contains an article by Major J. W. Powell, Director of the U. S. Geological Survey, on the "Irrigable Lands of the Arid Regions," which describes the birth of our beautiful lake in truly poetic language, but which rather jars upon the sensibilities of all good Nevadans by hinting that California ought to receive its benefits. If the Major were to live in Nevada a few years he would never ask such questions.

"In geologic times, not long ago as speaks the scientist, but very long ago as speaks the chronicler of human follies, there was a deep valley on the eastern slope of the Sierra Nevada at the headwaters of the Truckee river. About this valley towered granite mountains. But earthquakes came, rents were opened in the rocks, and from the fissures poured monstrous streams of lava. One of these fissures crossed the lower end of our valley, and through it poured floods of molten rock. Stream after stream issued, to cool in solid sheets and blocks, until a wall was built across the valley two or three thousand feet in height, and above it was a deep basin five or six hundred square miles in area. The storms that fell on the granite and volcanic mountains rolled in rivers to fill the basin, and Lake Tahoe was created. When filled at last, its waters overflowed the rim of lava, and the Truckee river now springs from the Tahoe fountain. Its deep waters are dark with profundity, like the clouds of a stormy sky, but about its shores a few shallow bays are found, and emerald waters, like festoons of beauty, encircle the deeper and more somber lake. Back from the waters forest-clad slopes rise towards the heavens, and above are seen naked crags and domes of granite. Farther to the north, Donner, Independence, and other mountain lakes discharge their waters into the creeks that join the Truckee. It is thus that a large hydrographic basin is formed in the mountains where torrential rains fall and deep snows accumulate in winter months, and in which the waters are collected to farm the Truckee, which leaves the mountains in a dance of delight and with a never-ending song of laughing waters.

Sweet valleys are found below, for the people have in many cases reclaimed the desert and encircled their homes with verdant fields. But the waters are all caught in California, while the irrigated lands are in Nevada; so the farmers of the Silver State must go to the lands of the Golden State to construct their reservoirs. The water of the Lake can be partly discharged each year by deepening its outlet, and the water used for irrigation in Nevada, and after the irrigating season is over the gates may be closed and the Lake permitted to refill; but this perhaps will mar a pleasure resort. A large part of all perennial waters to be used in Nevada have their sources in California. Who shall judge between the States?"

Try It.—There are many who smile at the idea of mind reading. It is not a difficult matter to test it for yourselves. The next time you meet four or five friends select one of them and blindfold them lead him into a room where the others are assembled. They as well as yourself desire the blindfolded person to do something of which he has no idea. Perhaps it is to make a bow, to touch some person, to sit down in a chair. Now hold fast to his hand with one of yours, and at the same time place your hand upon the forehead of your blindfolded friend. If you will conduct the experiment in good faith and try with all your power to make him think what you wish him to do you will be surprised to see how readily you can communicate your thoughts to the other. Don't laugh or attempt to argue the question, but try it.—Oroville Register.

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